

PRESS RELEASE

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RANDOLPH COUNTY MAN SENTENCED ON INSURANCE FRAUD CHARGE

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that Daniel Sherman was sentenced this week for attempting to secure workers' compensation benefits by filing a false claim.

Sherman, of Montrose, was indicted by a Randolph County Grand Jury in February on one (1) felony county of wrongfully seeking worker's compensation and one (1) felony county of fraudulent schemes. Sherman tried to continue receiving workers' compensation benefits he was not entitled to by filing a false claim after being discharged from Harris Home Improvements of Elkins, and making false statements to medical providers.

"Fraud is a crime that saturates every type of insurance and makes victims of all consumers by inflating premiums and increasing the cost of buying goods and services," Cline said. "It is critical that we continue protecting West Virginia consumers and employers against individuals who seek to profit illegally from the business of insurance."

Sherman was sentenced August 28, 2006 to one (1) year in the Tygart Valley Regional Jail; however, that sentence was suspended and Sherman was ordered to spend four (4) months on home confinement followed by five (5) years probation. Mr. Sherman was also ordered to pay \$12,000 in restitution as well as all court costs and his court-appointed attorney fees.

Investigation and prosecution in this case has been a joint effort with the Randolph County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner's Fraud Unit.

Anyone with information relating to suspected insurance fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 1-800-779-6853.